

VDF FIELD GUIDANCE-PERIMETER SECURITY

A security perimeter allows the security force to orient in all directions. The LL perimeter defense may be employed as the exterior guard (local security) for the operation of such activities as a Command Post, Communications Post, food/water distribution point, medical operation, shelter operation, etc. A well coordinated security perimeter sets the conditions for follow-on forces and follow-on operations.

PREPARATION

Ideally, the security force (SF) arrives at the designated location before operational capability of the activity to be guarded is established. The SF must take advantage of this by making the most thorough preparations for security measures, entry control, signage, lighting, dismount points, logistics, command + control+communications, improvement of positions and engagement areas (openness and depth), in the time available. The activity requiring the SF should have a point of contact available to provide the unit commander such information as the configuration of the activity and the functions contained therein. When possible the commander will select the terrain for the activity most favorable for providing LL security, concurrently providing for the needs of the subject activity. The SF seeks to provide security on terrain that maximizes the capability of its forces and assets.

OCCUPATION

The occupation phase of the defense includes moving from one location to the security perimeter location. A quartering party normally leads this movement to clear the position and prepares it for occupation. To ensure an effective and efficient occupation, the reconnaissance element marks perimeter positions. These tentative positions may then be entered on any operational graphics. Each squad moves in or is lead in by a guide to its marker. Once in position, each squad leader checks his position location. The platoon leader manages the positioning of each squad to ensure they locate IAW the tentative plan. The platoon leader corrects discrepancies. The platoon leader must personally walk the platoon positions to ensure everyone understands the plan and that special orders, fields of vision, ROI and ROE are IAW the plan. For command and control purposes, each squad leader must know the location of the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant. The SF cdr. should walk the positions after they are established. Alternate positions may be designated to fall back to if the original positions cannot be maintained. Movement to alternate positions should be rehearsed.

SECURE A PERIMETER

The security force commander begins by determining the projected size of the perimeter. He does this through assessing the number of individual soldiers available to conduct the assigned mission, and by assessing the terrain and "footprint" of the activity to be guarded. The perimeter must afford 360-degree observation and security capability. The actual shape is determined by the terrain and the configuration of the activity guarded. The reserve is centrally located. If the perimeter is penetrated the reserve blocks the penetration and the SF strives to restore the perimeter. Should the SF commander determine the SF is of insufficient strength to perform all assigned mission tasks the commander must request reinforcement.

ACTIVE MEASURES

1. The CO can require a set number of troops to be on alert at all times. As a guide this number should be at least one-third.
2. When engagement is expected the entire force should be on alert; however, this should not be maintained for long periods. The CO must keep in mind his soldiers need rest to function. A sleep plan must be established and enforced. Security however, cannot be sacrificed for rest.

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3. When possible, guards on the perimeter have interlocking fields of vision. Team leaders will be positioned slightly to the rear and between their team members while in the stand-to position. This allows the team leader to observe the disposition of his team members and provide support to either as required. The squad leader remains to the rear of his teams, observing their disposition and providing guidance and support as necessary. When in stand-down the team leader will move forward and the team members will move inward to the team leader OR the team leader will remain in place and be joined by the two team members. At least one-third of the team will remain on alert. The stand-to and stand-down positions should be rehearsed.
4. Stand-to is held both morning and evening to ensure each soldier adjusts to the changing light and noise conditions, and is dressed, equipped, and ready for action. The stand-to should start before first light in the morning and continue until after light. It should start before dark in the evening and last until after dark. The starting and ending times should vary to prevent establishing a pattern, but the stand-to must last long enough to accomplish its purpose.
5. The CO can dispatch patrols to satisfy security needs. The reserve may provide these patrols.
6. The reserve is not altered, committed, assigned any task, or location changed without the knowledge and approval of the CO.
7. If signals by hand, whistle, air horn, or other means are established they must be rehearsed.

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(Distances determined by terrain, visibility, size of guarded activity, threat, security force strength)

THE TEAM AT STAND-TO

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THE TEAM AT STAND-DOWN

4OCT15

REFERENCES: FM 3-21.8, FM 3-21.10, FM 22-6, VDF HPO4-1.2, est. VDF MP TRAINING

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